



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshitaka SASAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2653

Application No.: 10/671,440

Examiner: J. WATKO

Filed: September 29, 2003

Docket No.: 117329

For: THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME, A
HEAD GIMBAL ASSEMBLY, AND A HARD DISK DRIVE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

In reply to the March 3, 2005 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect
Group I, claims 1-12 and 20-21, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an
entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the
merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by
the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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